

Issue Brief – DOT Equipment Purchases

TEQNG IB-12

SUMMARY

The Equipment Management System maintains a computerized system containing an accounting of expenditures on each individual vehicle and maintenance-type piece of equipment; requests and executes work programs for buying replacement vehicles and maintenance equipment; provides specialized training programs to improve the skills of equipment operators and mechanics; analyzes computer reports in an effort to discover ways of improving fleet operations, reducing maintenance and repair costs and increasing the usage of equipment.

The Department has requested an increase of \$2,977,600 to purchase equipment to be used on additional lane miles of roadway being added to the state system during FY 2008.

DISCUSSION

An estimated 430 lane miles of roadway will be added to the Utah Department of Transportation's inventory of highways in FY 2008. These new lane miles include the I-15 project in Weber County and the Legacy Highway in Davis County. Other statewide lane mile increases include 33.6 miles in Region One, 75.48 lane miles in Region Two, 75 lane miles in Region Three, 36 lane miles in the Richfield District, 62 lane miles in the Price District, and 50.98 lane miles in the Cedar City District.

The addition of lane miles will require the traditional routine maintenance activities of snow removal, sign and safety device maintenance, etc. The last request DOT made for equipment and FTE increases to help maintain increased lane miles of roadway was with the completion of I-15 in Salt Lake County in FY 2002.

The Department is requesting \$2,977,600 from the Transportation Fund to purchase 16 new trucks with snow plows, spreaders, and liquid anti-icing applicators to help maintain this new lane mile inventory.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

The Analyst recommends that the Transportation, Environmental Quality, and National Guard Appropriations Subcommittee appropriate \$2,977,600 from Transportation Funds in FY 2009 for equipment purchases.